



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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July 28, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: METHAMPHETAMINE WORKING GROUP

In July 2003, Public Health brought together a group to provide input to the Department of Public Health in addressing Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) health issues related to Public Health. One of the outcomes of this forum was the formation of a work group to examine the growing problem of methamphetamine. The Methamphetamine Work Group was convened in August 2005. This is to provide an overview of the activities and progress to date of this group.

The work group was convened to focus on the rise of methamphetamine use, a serious public health issue as evidenced by the increasing numbers of people in treatment for methamphetamine use and associated problems. The group, comprised of representatives from various agencies and researchers working with methamphetamine users and representatives from Public Health programs, met five times between August 30, 2005 and June 12, 2006. A subcommittee, established to develop educational resources, met an additional two times in May and June 2006.

To date, the group has reviewed local data and research on the scope and impact of methamphetamine use and has developed a preliminary set of recommendations for continued work group activities. Two of the preliminary workgroup recommendations are already being implemented. First, a subcommittee was formed to develop educational resources regarding methamphetamine (fact sheet and resources manual). A second recommendation, expand the participation on the work group, has also been undertaken with participants sought from the Departments of Mental Health and Children and Family Services as well as other community participants. The workgroup continues to refine the set of preliminary recommendations with the ultimate goal of preparing and implementing a plan to reduce the toll of methamphetamine use in Los Angeles County.

We will provide you with an additional update in 60 days. In the meantime if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:aml

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors